

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An information recording apparatus comprising:
information recording means for recording information in a first recording medium;
operating means for operating unloading of said first recording medium including said information recorded by said information recording means;
unloading means for unloading said first recording medium based on operation of said operation means;
fee charging means for charging a fee when said first recording medium is unloaded by said unloading means;
selecting means for selecting quality of said information to be stored in said first recording medium by said information recording means;
wherein said fee charging means varies the amount of fee that is charged according to the quality selected by said selecting means and dubbing information stored in said first recording medium, and
wherein said dubbing information comprises status information transmitted for conversion prior to said unloading; and

charge information means for storing in a memory the varied amount of fees that are charged and for reproducing and transmitting, subsequent to said unloading, the amount of fee that is charged for the information that is unloaded,

wherein said fee charging means sets values of a plurality of charge multiplying factors according to the selected quality, the charge multiplying factors being multiplied with a basic charging fee to vary the amount of fee to be charged, and

wherein said information recording means includes a medium format conversion means to convert the information into one of a plurality of media format types of information, a disc drive device to record the information for a disc reproducing apparatus, and a memory recording device to record the information for a portable telephone adapted to reproduce the information on a display on the telephone.

2. (Original) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising information receiving means for receiving transmitted information;

wherein said information recording means records information received by said information receiving means into said first recording medium.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising information reproducing means for reproducing information from a second recording medium,

wherein said information recording means records information reproduced by said information reproducing means into said first recording medium.

5. (Original) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising notifying means for notifying charging of fee when unloading operation is performed through said operating means.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the quality of said information is based on image quality.

8. (Previously Presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the quality of said information is based on a broadcasting system.

9. (Previously Presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the quality of said information is based on a number of languages.

10. (Previously Presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the quality of said information is based on an audio format.

11. (Previously Presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the quality of said information is based on a region code.

12. (Original) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising first selection means for selecting recording of a commercial message along with said information, in said first recording medium;

wherein said fee charging means reduces the amount of charge when recording of said commercial message is selected by said first selection means.

13. (Original) The information recording apparatus according to claim 12 further comprising a second selection means for selecting size of said commercial message to be recorded in said first recording medium;

wherein said fee charging means changes the amount of reduction of charge according to the size of said commercial message selected by said second selection means.

14. (Original) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fee charging means changes the amount of charge according to type of said first recording medium.

15. (Currently Amended) A charging method for charging a fee related to recording information in a first recording medium and unloading said first recording medium based on an unloading operation, the fee charging method comprising the steps of:

charging when unloading of said first recording medium is performed; and
selecting a quality of said information to be recorded in said first recording
medium,

wherein an amount of fee that is charged is varied according to said quality of
said information recorded in said first recording medium and dubbing information stored in said
first recording medium, and

wherein said dubbing information comprises status information transmitted for
conversion prior to said unloading;

setting values of a plurality of charge multiplying factors according to the selected
quality, the charge multiplying factors being multiplied with a basic charging fee to vary the
amount of fee to be charged;

storing in a memory the varied amount of fees that are charged; and
reproducing and transmitting, subsequent to unloading, the amount of fee that is
charged for performing unloading,

wherein said recording includes a medium format conversion step to convert the
information into one of a plurality of media format types of information, a disc drive recording
step to record the information for a disc reproducing apparatus, or a memory recording step to
record the information for a portable telephone adapted to reproduce the information on a display
on the telephone.

16. (Original) The fee charging method according to claim 15, wherein
information to be recorded in said first recording medium comprises transmitted information.

17. (Original) The fee charging method according to claim 15, wherein information to be recorded in said first recording medium comprises information stored in an information storage.

18. (Original) The fee charging method according to claim 15, wherein information to be recorded in said first recording medium comprises information reproduced by a second recording medium.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The fee charging method according to claim 15, wherein quality of said information is based on quality of image.

22. (Previously Presented) The fee charging method according to claim 15, wherein quality of said information is based on broadcasting system.

23. (Previously Presented) The fee charging method according to claim 15, wherein quality of said information is based on number of languages.

24. (Previously Presented) The fee charging method according to claim 15, wherein quality of said information is based on audio format.

25. (Previously Presented) The fee charging method according to claim 15, wherein quality of said information is based on region code.

26. (Original) The fee charging method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of optionally selecting recording a commercial message together with said information to be recorded in said first recording medium,

wherein an amount of said fee is reduced when said commercial message is recorded together with said information to be recorded in said first recording medium.

27. (Original) The fee charging method according to claim 26, further comprising the step of optionally selecting size of said commercial message to be recorded in said first recording medium,

wherein an amount of reduction of fee is changed according to the size of said commercial message recorded in said first recording medium.

28. (Original) The fee charging method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of changing an amount of charge according to a type of said first recording medium.

29. (Currently Amended) An information recording apparatus comprising: information storage means for storing information in an information storage; information recording means for recording in a first recording medium information stored in said information storage through said information storage means;

operating means for performing unloading operation of said first recording medium having said information recorded by said information recording means;

unloading means for unloading said first recording medium based on operation of said operating means;

fee charging means for performing:

 a first charging when said information is stored in said information storage means through said information storage means; and

 a second charging when unloading information from said first recording medium through said unloading means; and

selecting means for selecting quality of said information to be stored in said first recording medium by said information recording means;

 wherein said fee charging means varies the amount of charge according to the quality selected by said selecting means and dubbing information stored in said first recording medium, and

 wherein said dubbing information comprises status information transmitted for conversion prior to said unloading; and

 charge information means for storing in a memory the varied amount of charges and for reproducing and transmitting, subsequent to said unloading, the amount of fee that is charged for the information that is unloaded,

wherein said fee charging means sets values of a plurality of charge multiplying factors according to the selected quality, the charge multiplying factors being multiplied with a basic charging fee to vary the amount of fee to be charged, and

wherein said information recording means includes a medium format conversion means to convert the information into one of a plurality of media format types of information, a disc drive device to record the information for a disc reproducing apparatus, and a memory recording device to record the information for a portable telephone adapted to reproduce the information on a display on the telephone.

30. (Original) The information recording apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising information receiving means for receiving transmitted information; wherein said information storage means stores information received by said information receiving means in said information storage means.

31. (Original) The information recording apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising information reproducing means for reproducing information from a second recording medium,

wherein said information storage means stores in said information storage means information reproduced by said information reproducing means.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A charging method for charging a fee related to an information recording apparatus storing information in an information storage, recording said information stored in said information storage into a first recording medium and unloading said

first recording medium based on an unloading operation, the charging method comprising the steps of:

performing first charging when said information is stored in said information storage, and second charging when said first recording medium is unloaded;

selecting quality of said information to be recorded in said first recording medium;

setting values of a plurality of charge multiplying factors according to the selected quality, the charge multiplying factors being multiplied with a basic charging fee to vary the amount of fee to be charged;

varying the amount of charge according to said quality of said information recorded in said first recording medium and dubbing information stored in said first recording medium;

transmitting said dubbing information for conversion prior to said unloading; storing in a memory the varied amount of charges; and
reproducing and transmitting, subsequent to said unloading, the amount of fee that is charged for unloading ~~said first~~the first recording medium,

wherein said information recording includes a medium format conversion step to convert the information into one of a plurality of media format types of information, a disc drive recording step to record the information for a disc reproducing apparatus, and a memory recording step to record the information for a portable telephone adapted to reproduce the information on a display on the telephone.

34. (Original) The fee charging method according to claim 33, wherein information stored in said information storage is transmitted information.

35. (Original) The fee charging method according to claim 33, wherein information stored in said information storage is information reproduced through a second recording medium.

36. (Canceled).

37. (Previously Presented) The information recording apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said charge information means stores a prepaid fee in said memory, said prepaid fee being reduced as said fee charging means charges said fee; and said fee charging means charges said fee until said prepaid fee is exhausted, whereupon said unloading means no longer unloads said first recording medium.